



MINUTES OF THE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD IN THE FINKE  
COUNCIL OFFICE ON THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:30AM

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**1 MEETING OPENING**

The meeting was declared a provisional and opened at 10:35AM

**2 WELCOME**

2.1 Welcome to Country – Chair Michael Ferguson

**3 ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / RESIGNATIONS / TERMINATIONS /  
NOMINATIONS**

**3.1 Attendance**

Local Authority Members:

Chairperson Michael Ferguson

Councillors:

Councillor Patrick Allen, Councillor Aloyischois Hayes, Councillor Lisa Sharman and President Roxanne Kenny

Council Employees:

Belinda Urquhart – Chief Executive Officer, Damien Ryan – Area Manager Council Services, John Fleming – Council Services Coordinator and June Crabb – Coordinator Governance

Guests:

Bridget Doolan – Finke Community Resident, Zyeallah Fenton-Woods and Jessica Scrutton – Representatives from the Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet

**3.2 Apologies/Absentees**

Apologies:

Nil

Absentees:

Member Charmaine Stuart, Member Rosemary Matasia, Member Jill Doolan and Member Richard Doolan, and Councillor Andrew Davis

### **3.1 & 3.2 ATTENANCE/APOLOGIES/ABSENTEES**

**FLA2024–16 RESOLVED (Aloyiscois Hayes/Lisa Sharman)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that:

- a) the attendance to the meeting was noted; and
- b) recorded members Charmaine Stuart, Rosemary Matasia, Jill Doolan, Richard Doolan, and Councillor Andrew Davis as absent without notice for this meeting.

### **3.3 Resignations**

Member Geoffrey Stuart

### **3.3 RESIGNATIONS**

**FLA2024–17 RESOLVED (Patrick Allen/Lisa Sharman)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that:

- a) noted that the verbal resignation from Geoffrey Stuart was received; and
- b) agreed that on presentation of a signed letter, members will accept the resignation and declare a vacancy on the Authority.

### **3.4 Terminations**

NIL

### **3.5 Nominations**

NIL

## **4 COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 CODE OF CONDUCT**

**FLA2024–18 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation that the Council Code of Conduct was noted.

## **5 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Finke Local Authority of 5 March 2024 be adopted as a resolution of Finke Local Authority.

**Minute Note: The Authority did not resolve the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 5 March 2024 as the meeting today was a provisional.**

## **6 ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA AND NOTIFICATIONS OF GENERAL BUSINESS AND NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **6.1 PAPERS CIRCULATED AND RECEIVED**

**FLA2024–19 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the papers circulated were received for consideration at the meeting.

### **6.2 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**FLA2024–20 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and raised the following matters for General Council Business.

- Wash Bay to clean work vehicles, and assigned as a new project.
- noted the following matters were discussed and moved to the Projects wishlist:
  - Meeting Place for Visitors to include Shade and seating at the South side entrance from Kulgera.  
Scope of works requested and Members will look at the Community Infrastructure Plan at the next meeting to establish the best area.
  - Fence at the Softball ground
  - New Playground
  - Shade over the Basketball Court will investigate ownership of the court and what will be required to install the shelter
  - Realign the Softball Pitch. The CEO will set up a meeting with NPY to discuss a scope of works.

### **6.3 NOTIFICATION OF MATTERS RAISED IN GENERAL NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**FLA2024–21 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyiscois Hayes)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and raised the following matters for General Non-Council Business:

- Follow up with Police presence in community.
- Housing Projects – raise the height of fencing and when the next Housing Reference Group meeting is
- Make inquiries with Congress regarding the process to take over the operation of the Health Clinic

## **7 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

### **7.1 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

**FLA2024–22 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyiscois Hayes)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and noted the Conflict of Interest policy.

## **8 DEPUTATIONS / GUEST SPEAKERS**

### **8.1 FIRST CIRCLES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**FLA2024–23 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and noted the information on the First Circles Leadership Program.

## **9 LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **9.1 LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Funding for Local Authority projects is part of a grant received from The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet (DCM&C) and invested in projects to benefit and improve the community.

Examples of *acceptable* purposes for expenditure include:

- Repairs and maintenance of community assets controlled or owned by the council. For example - office upgrades, fencing, solar lighting, road repairs and ablution facilities.
- Acquisition of plant and equipment directly related to local government service delivery. For example - trailers, garden maintenance equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers and pressure cleaners, rubbish bin enclosures /stands.
- Upgrade/enhancement of community sporting facilities. For example upgrade of community ovals, basketball courts and playgrounds, shade structures, picnic areas, seating and park furniture, tree planting and irrigation.
- Festivals or other events – but must only be conducted within a council's own Local Authority area.

**The Local Authority has committed all available funds to projects and there is nil balance remaining to allocate.**

**FLA2024–24 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyischois Hayes)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council:

- a) noted that all funding from previous years had been fully expended
- b) accepted the 2023/2024 funding allocation of \$26,900.00, noting that these funds must be spent by June 2025
- c) noted completion and closed the following projects:
  - 2135 – Wood fire BBQ, returning \$768.40 to unallocated funds; and
  - 2136 – Fence around Cemetery, returning \$5,128.78 to unallocated funds
- d) Created two new projects from the wishlist:
  - Four Stealth Solar lights, allocating \$16,000.00
    - two placed on Putula St, and
    - two placed outside the Rec Hall
  - Wash down bay for work vehicles, allocating \$10,000.00
    - built within the landfill facility with a concrete base, noting that the CSC to mark out an area for the slab

## **9.2 DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Each financial year, MRC grants a discretionary fund allocation of \$4,000.00 to the Local Authority.

The Local Authority decides how best to commit these funds that will benefit the Community and to improve Community development.

Discretionary Funds cannot be carried over from year to year and must be spent (with goods received) between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

### **FLA2024–25 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyischois Hayes)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and noted:

- a) that as authorised by Council, the CEO approved the following commitments:
  - MRC to clear the deduction of \$727.27 from the 2024/2025 Discretionary funds and return these funds to the Authority;
  - MRC to return \$2,117.26 from the 2023/2024 Discretionary funds period as staff were not available during that time to raise the Purchase Orders; and
  - Acknowledged that the Authority had a total of \$6,117.26 to spend by 30 June 2025.
- b) allocated \$500.00 towards a Christmas BBQ;
- c) allocated \$1,000.00 worth of vouchers to each competition:
  - Garden/Yard competition
  - Christmas Lights competition
- d) approved the following voucher values and conditions to the competitions:
  - First prize - \$500, second prize - \$300 and third prize - \$200;
  - Noted that vouchers could be raised against Bunnings, Aputula Store and Milner meats; and
  - Agreed that the closing date for the competitions be the end November 2024.

## **10 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORTS**

### **10.1 COUNCIL SERVICES LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report is an update of Council Delivered Services in Finke across the area of Local Government Service Delivery.

### **FLA2024–26 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the report on Council Services was accepted.

## **10.2 COMMUNITY SERVICE FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on Community Services program delivery.

### ***FLA2024–27 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Lisa Sharman)***

**That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the report on Community Services was accepted.**

## **10.3 TECHNICAL SERVICES FINKE LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on Technical Services program..

### ***FLA2024–28 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)***

**That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the Technical Services report was noted.**

## **10.4 PEOPLE AND CAPABILITIES REPORT**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report provides the Local Authority members an insight into MacDonnell Regional Council's staffing diversity and employee distribution among communities.

### ***FLA2024–29 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)***

**That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the People and Capabilities report was noted.**

## **11 FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORTS**

### **11.1 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This expenditure report shows spending until 31 August 2024 in the Local Authority community.

### ***FLA2024–30 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyiscois Hayes)***

**That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the Income and Expenditure report was noted and accepted.**

## **12 GENERAL BUSINESS AS RAISED AT ITEM 6.2**

### **12.1 GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Under item 6.2, members have the opportunity to raise matters of General Business that are discussed at this report.

#### **FLA2024–31 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Aloyischois Hayes)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council that the matters raised at item 6.2 had been addressed.

## **12 NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS AS RAISED AT ITEM 6.3**

### **12.2 OTHER NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this paper is to note and discuss the matters raised at item 6.3 and to be informed of any updates to the actions relating to the services provided by the Northern Territory Government.

#### **FLA2024–32 RESOLVED (Michael Ferguson/Patrick Allen)**

That the provisional meeting of the Finke Local Authority, by majority vote made a recommendation to Council and noted the following:

- a) **Representatives from DCM&C to follow up with Regular Police attendance in community**
- b) **Grading of roads from Kulgera to Finke**
- c) **Noted the information from the CEO regarding the possibility to transfer Health Services.  
Representatives from Tin Truck Consulting are organising community consultations to discuss the development of a Business Case model around the community controlled health services.. This Business Case model will be used to determine the next communities that will be endorsed by the NT Aboriginal Health Forum to seek Commonwealth funding to transfer health services to a community controlled service – who the community wants to manage their health clinic and how do they want these services delivered.**

## **13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17 OCTOBER 2024**

## **14 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting terminated at 12:35 pm.

This page and the preceding 7 pages are the unconfirmed minutes of the Finke Local Authority Meeting held on Monday, 9 September 2024.